

National Center for State Courts

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) is a nonprofit organization organized by the state judicial leadership to serve the needs of justice in the nation's state and local courts. U.S. Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and other judicial leaders who saw the need for a central resource for the nation's state, local, and territorial courts founded NCSC in 1971. Today, NCSC meets that need in six ways: (1) direct technical assistance and consulting services; (2) research and technology; (3) knowledge and information service; (4) education; (5) government relations and association management; and (6) international exchange and cooperation.

Consulting and Technical Assistance

The Courts Services Division, located in Denver, Colorado, coordinates NCSC'S direct consulting and technical assistance services. Staff from the Courts Services Division provide assistance in such areas as court administration, case flow management, process reengineering, court technology, architecture, finance and budgeting, family law, human resources, and other court operations. Project teams are assembled to provide courts with expert on-site consulting. When appropriate, the Courts Services Division complements its own teams with staff from other NCSC divisions, staff from state and local courts, and private consultants. Contact: Laura Klaversma at (800) 466-3063

Research and Technology

The Research Division enhances court performance by providing leaders with the knowledge necessary to administer justice fairly, equitably, and efficiently and by anticipating societal changes that will affect courts and the communities they serve. Specifically, its goals are to:

- Provide the court community with relevant, innovative, applied research;
- Promote, through research, the leadership

- and policies of the state court community;
- Exchange research information with the court community using a variety of communication methods; and
- Maintain and improve a nationally recognized staff with expertise in court administration, court technology, and research methodology.

To meet these goals, the Research Division is organized in research teams conducting projects on court performance standards, family law, court resources and statistics, jury innovations, sentencing reform, community focused courts, domestic violence, ethnic and linguistic diversity, and court technology research, standards, and applications. Contact: Pam Petrakis at (800) 877-1233

Knowledge and Information Service

The Knowledge and Information Service tracks trends and operates a clearinghouse for information on state courts. The NCSC Library houses the world's largest collection pertaining to judicial administration with more than 30,000-catalogued items.

The publications program provides the information and knowledge needed by state judicial officials to strengthen the effectiveness of courts. NCSC publishes *Center Court*, a quarterly newsletter devoted to the work of the National Center and other news of interest to state courts, and publishes numerous books, monographs, and reference works on court organization and operations issues. In addition, the program edits and publishes the journals and newsletters of the associations of court officials, including *The Court Manager* and *Court Review*. Contact: Carol Flango at (800) 877-1233

Education

NCSC's Institute for Court Management (ICM) provides education services for court leaders. National educational programs provide training

and continuing education in judicial administration for judges and court administrators. The Court Executive Development Program offers an intensive, four-part curriculum on leadership, management, and judicial administration. ICM also conducts training and consultative services to individual states and international clients. Contact Sue Dassel at (800) 877-1233

Association Services

The Association Services Division actively supports the leadership, education, and networking agendas of eleven associations of state court officials, including the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ), the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), the American Judges Association (AJA), and the National Association for Court Management (NACM). The division's Government Relations Office located in Washington, D.C., assists the leaders of the judiciaries in advancing the interests of state courts at the national level. Contact: Kay Farley at (800) 532-0204

International Programs

The International Programs Office brings together NCSC's many international activities and acts as a catalyst to improve the administration of justice and the rule of law worldwide. International activities include technical assistance, consulting, educational programs, and an international visitors program. Contact: Dick VanDuizend at (800) 797-2545

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